

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. This communication is in response to the Amendment filed on 9/19/07. Claims 1, 3-6, 10-11, 14, and 15 have been amended. Claims 9, 16-17 and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 1-8, 10-15 and 18-19 are pending.

Drawings

1a. **The drawings submitted 4/17/2003 have been approved.**

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-8, 10-15 and 18-19 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance and in light of Applicant's arguments.

The closest prior art of record Obradovich et al (2002/0013815) discloses technique for effective organization and communication of information.

Mattes et al (6,380,842) discloses electronic key.

However, none of the cited prior art discloses/ suggests "the in-car access controller including means for reading the digital key on the portable storage device and verifying the digital signature of the reservation server and input means for receiving information identifying the user and comparing entered personal information with personal information identifying the user of the digital key, the in-car access controller further including means for invalidating the digital key if the entered personal information

does not match the personal information identifying the user of the digital key but, otherwise, activating instruments which the user is authorized to have access to, the in-car access controller being responsive to a request from the user to return the car and including means for obtaining car status information, including fuel level, mileage, current time and car ID, and generating a return packet by combining car status information and current digital key and signing the return packet using a private key of the in-car access controller as a digital signature and saving the return packet on the portable storage device; and a key return system for processing digital keys returned by renters, the key return system invalidating the current digital key and printing a receipt for the user”.

Claims 2-8, 10, 12-15 and 18-19 incorporate the features of claims 1 and 11 through their dependencies, and are also allowed for the same reasons given above.

EXAMINER’S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner’s amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner’s amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Clyde Christofferson on 11/15/07. During the interview, the Attorney agreed to the following:

In claim 1, the entire line 11 was deleted and --information identifying the user; said information being digitally signed-- was substituted therefore.

In claim 1, line 23, immediately after "fuel level", "milage" was changed to -- mileage--.

In claim 11, line 12, immediately after "the car", the terminology --that-- was inserted.

In claim 11, line 13, the terminology, "the user, combined information of on" was changed to --the user, said information on--.

No further questions were discussed and no further amendments were made.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vanel Frenel whose telephone number is 571-272-6769. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ryan Florian Zeender can be reached on 571-272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/F. Ryan Zeender/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3627

V.F

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